



*Yvonne Sanchez*

September is a time of transition and change, with summer ending, a new school year beginning, and fall on its way. This September comes with some wonderful transitions and some changes for the Department of Neighborhoods.

The Mayor added two new divisions to the Department of Neighborhoods: the Office for Education and the Prevention and Research Division. Former Department of Neighborhoods Public Information Officer Irene Stewart returns to us as Director of the Office for Education. It is a new role for Irene, but right in line with her strengths as a longtime advocate for children and education in Seattle. Throughout this issue, you will learn about some great programs and outreach efforts in which her division is involved.

The Prevention and Research Division includes the COMPASS program (Community Mapping, Planning & Analysis for Safety Strategies) and NATS, the Neighborhood Action Team Seattle. Both programs will help the Department of Neighborhoods help residents identify and find creative solutions to public safety problems. In addition to these efforts, the Division will be the lead on the department's new community emphasis on youth. You will hear more about this in future editions.

Our new Operations Director is Hazel Bhang. I have worked with Hazel in the past and know first-hand her strong organizational, financial, and people skills. She will do an excellent job overseeing our neighborhood customer service centers, the Department's information technology needs, and its finances. Her excellent reputation with the Council and their staff and with staff in the City's Department of Finance will guide us through the inevitable changes that result from budget challenges that will impact every City department in this tough economy.

Changes bring opportunities and we are looking forward to the opportunities. We are excited about continuing to work with communities through the Department's longtime, highly successful programs such as the Neighborhood Matching Fund, Neighborhood Plan Implementation, and Historic Preservation and Development.

French author Francois de la Rochefoucauld said, "The only thing constant in life is change." We are embracing changes underway and still to come. I hope you will join us in guiding the department's efforts to continue making your neighborhood and Seattle a wonderful place to call home.

# School building projects on-time and on-budget

*By Ovid Thompson, Office For Education/Department of Neighborhoods*

First-time and returning students to West Seattle High School this fall will find a sparkling, newly-renovated facility, with reminders from the building's past. The facility showcases the preserved 1928 vaulted ceiling in the main entry, the conical-shaped open space in the library, and a spacious three-court gymnasium that will become the largest indoor gymnasium in the Seattle school system. Once open, West Seattle High School will represent the second high school (after Ballard High School) rebuilt under the Seattle Public School's Building Excellence capital construction program.

Seattle voters passed Building Excellence I (BEX I), a \$330 million levy, in 1995. By the end of this

ation, Public Utilities, Transportation, City Light, and Design, Construction and Land Use. Seattle Public Schools' representatives include facilities planners, BEX program managers, and individual project managers from Heery International, the construction consultants. Ovid Thompson, City/District Facilities Liaison in the Department of Neighborhoods' Office For Education, leads the team.

The Building Excellence Team meets once a month to consider construction and permitting issues related to school projects. Open communication and dedication to the spirit of partnering are the keys to the group's



year, Seattle residents will see 19 school projects built largely on-time and on-budget. A big share of credit for this success goes to a City-Public Schools interagency permitting group called the Building Excellence Team.

The Team includes representatives from City departments involved in the permitting of school capital projects and representatives from the Seattle Public schools. City departments include Neighborhoods, Human Services, Fire, Parks and Recre-

ation. The team approach ensures each agency achieves its own interests and objectives. For the City, this means ensuring that school planners construct safe learning environments, incorporate sustainability in school design and operation, and give adequate attention to child care and community space. The Public Schools' objectives include quick and resolute problem solving, expedited plans review, and the use of the City's technical and planning expertise as needed.

The signing of a City/Seattle Public Schools Master Cooperation Agreement in March 2002 recommitted the respective agencies to the spirit of partnering as the second Building Excellence Program, BEX II, gets underway. BEX II, passed by voters in February 2001, will include high school renovations at Roosevelt, Garfield, and Cleveland; a rebuilt Brighton Elementary School; classroom additions at six elementary schools; a new middle school facility

at South Shore; and significant high school improvements at Nathan Hale, Ingraham, and Sealth. The work of the Building Excellence Team will continue to ensure that school projects in BEX II, like those in the first levy, will be completed on-time and on-budget.

For more information, call Ovid Thompson at (206) 684-0607 or send e-mail to [ovid.thompson@seattle.gov](mailto:ovid.thompson@seattle.gov) ☼

## JOIN THE CELEBRATION! . . . . .

Several new or renovated schools are planning community celebrations this fall. Upcoming events include:

- **West Seattle High School** (3000 California Avenue SW) — The WSHS Foundation is planning a fundraising event that features a sneak preview of the school and the dedication of *Landing, Barter, and Logging*, three WPA murals by Jacob Elshin, on the evening of August 29. The school will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, September 3 (9:30 a.m.) and a homecoming community celebration on Saturday, October 12 (10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.).

- **The Center School** (Center House, 305 Harrison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) — The Center School will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the first day of school, Wednesday, September 4, at 9:30 a.m.

- **Madrona K-8** (1121 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue) — Madrona School will hold a community celebration on Saturday, September 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- **Greenwood Elementary** (144 NW 80th Street) — Greenwood School will hold a community celebration on Thursday, October 10, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

In addition, the public is welcome to attend the grand opening of The John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence, the Seattle Public Schools' new administrative headquarters at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South & South Lander Street, on Saturday, September 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on any of these events, call Dick Lee at (206) 391-5555 or send e-mail to [richardjlee@attbi.com](mailto:richardjlee@attbi.com)



# City offers environmental education for you and your children

*By Heather Moss, Office for Education/Department of Neighborhoods*

Conserving, protecting, and restoring the environment is one of the City of Seattle's top priorities. Our environmental education programs help people of all ages learn how to conserve energy, water, and wildlife; preserve marine and forest habitat; manage solid waste; and protect the quality of water.

The City supports a wide variety of environmental education programs that serve people of all ages and all backgrounds, with special emphasis on K-12 students, teachers, and parents. These include the Seattle Aquarium, Woodland Park Zoo, Carkeek Park, Discovery Park, Camp Long, Seward Park, Cedar River Education Center, Salmon in the Schools, Teens for Recreation and Environmental Conservation (TREC), In Concert with the Environment (ICE), Living Wise, Stop the Waste, Grant Central Station, Mobile Field Lab, Adopt-A-Street, P-Patch, Adopt-A-Parks, and K-12 Household Hazardous Waste Education.

These programs collectively reach over 146,000 children and youth and over 3,000 teachers in the Greater Seattle Area. They are available in almost every school in Seattle, public and private, as well as many surrounding school districts. In addition, the City engages youth involved in organized youth programs at community centers and through the middle school After School Activities Program (ASAP).

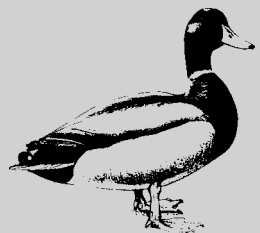
The City's environmental education efforts cover a wide variety of issues and topic areas: conserving water and energy, preserving water quality, reforesting urban areas, improving wildlife and marine habitat, encouraging urban gardening, and reducing, reusing, and recycling waste. Many programs concentrate on how humans impact a particular issue or element of the world and how different elements of the world fit together.

The City is also looking at ways to offer service-learning opportunities to students. Sixty hours of service-learning is required for graduation from Seattle high schools. A number of City departments are already involved in service-learning through environmental activities; the Office for Education is working to engage students in activities throughout City departments, supporting them in meeting their graduation requirement and leading by example as a large employer in the community.

For more information on environmental education and service-learning, call Heather Moss, Office For Education, at (206) 615-1554 or send e-mail to [heather.moss@seattle.gov](mailto:heather.moss@seattle.gov) 🌱



**ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING  
CENTERS IN SEATTLE**



The City of Seattle offers eight environmental learning centers to its residents. Seattle Parks and Recreation operates five in Seattle: Carkeek Park Environmental Education Center, Discovery Park Visitor Center, Camp Long Nature Center, Seward Park Nature Center, and the Seattle Aquarium. Seattle Public Utilities operates the Cedar River Watershed Education Center in North Bend. The Woodland Park Zoo and the Washington Park Arboretum are operated independently. Expert staff naturalists at each of these facilities offer a wide variety of environmental education programs, events, and activities for people of all ages, especially school-age children.

**THE SEATTLE AQUARIUM**  
**1483 ALASKAN WAY, PIER 59**

The Seattle Aquarium offers programs that expand knowledge of, inspire interest in, and encourage stewardship of the aquatic wildlife and habitats of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest. For more information, call Renatta Williams at (206) 386-4353, send e-mail to [Renatta.Williams@seattle.gov](mailto:Renatta.Williams@seattle.gov), or go to [www.seattleaquarium.org](http://www.seattleaquarium.org) on the Web.

**CARKEEK ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**EDUCATION CENTER**  
**950 NW CARKEEK PARK ROAD**

The Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center offers programs, workshops, and tours that explore and explain the relationships between forests, creeks, wetlands, habitat, and wildlife. Special features include a salmon spawning creek, an im-

print pond, and self-guided interpretive trails. For more information, call (206) 684-0877 or go to [www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/Carkeek.htm](http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/Carkeek.htm) on the Web.

**WOODLAND PARK ZOO**  
**601 NORTH 59TH STREET**

Woodland Park Zoo is a conservation and education institution that demonstrates the value, beauty, and interdependence of all living things. For more information, call (206) 684-4800 or go to [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) on the Web.

**WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM**  
**2300 ARBORETUM DRIVE EAST**

The Washington Park Arboretum is a conservation and educational institution that focuses on a diverse collection of woody plants. The 230-acre arboretum offers the Saplings school program, weekend family programs, weekend walks and guided group tours, summer day camp, self-guided opportunities and the Foster Island wetland and wildlife sanctuary. For more information, call (206) 543-8801, send e-mail to [wpa@u.washington.edu](mailto:wpa@u.washington.edu), or go to [www.wparboretum.org](http://www.wparboretum.org) on the Web.

**SEWARD PARK NATURE CENTER**  
**5902 LAKE WASHINGTON**  
**BOULEVARD SOUTH**

Programs at the Seward Park Nature Center emphasize old growth forest ecosystems, the history of Lake Washington, salmon, land, water, ethnobotany, the eagles of Seward Park, and general birding. For

more information, call (206) 684-4396 or send e-mail to [sewardpark@seattle.gov](mailto:sewardpark@seattle.gov)

**DISCOVERY PARK VISITORS CENTER**  
**3801 WEST GOVERNMENT WAY**

Discovery Park's education and conservation leadership programs inspire environmental stewardship, community involvement, passion, and respect for the natural world through the exploration, interpretation, and restoration of unique habitats. For more information, call (206) 386-4236, send e-mail to [discoverypark@seattle.gov](mailto:discoverypark@seattle.gov), or go to [www.discoverypark.org](http://www.discoverypark.org) on the Web.

**CAMP LONG NATURE CENTER**  
**5200 35TH AVENUE SW**

Camp Long offers fun, educational natural history programs for children, adults, families, and school and scout groups. Sixty-eight acres and 10 cabins make unique overnight nature programs possible. The Center also leads field trips across the Northwest, inspiring better environmental stewardship. For more information, call (206) 684-7434, send e-mail to [camplong@seattle.gov](mailto:camplong@seattle.gov), or go to [www.camplong.org](http://www.camplong.org) on the Web.

**CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED**  
**EDUCATION CENTER**  
**19901 CEDAR FALLS ROAD SE, NORTH BEND**

The Cedar River Watershed Education Center emphasizes watersheds, water quality, water conservation, wildlife habitats, and connecting people to the source of drinking water for 1.3 million people. For more information, call (206) 615-0831 or go to [www.cityofseattle.net/util/cedarwatershed](http://www.cityofseattle.net/util/cedarwatershed) on the Web. ☀

# Families and Education Levy: Keeping kids safe, healthy, and ready to learn

By Rebecca Salinas, Office For Education/Department of Neighborhoods

Seattle's Families and Education Levy is a City initiative that helps keep kids safe, healthy, and ready to learn. The Levy is the result of the Education Summit called by Mayor Norman B. Rice in April 1990, in which 2,000 parents, educators, students, business people, community activists, government employees, and members of the general public participated. Small group meetings were held throughout the city, the City's role in supporting students and their education from outside the classroom was recognized, and Summit participants recommended a special emphasis on programs and services that ensure that children and youth are safe, healthy, and ready to learn.

To fund new programs and meet the expectations of Summit participants, Mayor Rice turned to the voters of Seattle with a ballot initiative: the Families and Education Levy, which would draw \$69.2 million over seven years. Voters approved the measure in November 1990.

The Levy ordinance established an oversight committee comprising the Mayor, School Superintendent, chair of the City Council's education committee, a School Board member, and community representatives that would advise the Mayor on Levy expenditures and policy issues. In January 1991, the City's Office For Education was established to oversee Levy administration. No more than 5% of total Levy funds is used for program administration.

With input from the Public Schools and community stakeholders, programs and services

were developed and implemented in four key areas:

1. *Early childhood development:* Twenty-five percent of the Levy was used to increase the number of childcare subsidies for low-income parents
2. *School based student/family services:* Twenty-three percent of the Levy was used to fund parent and volunteer involvement activities in 80 Seattle schools, implement a middle-school dropout prevention program in 15 schools, and fund family support workers in Seattle elementary schools.
3. *Comprehensive student health services:* Twenty-nine percent of the Levy was used to open four high school teen health centers, provide health education in elementary and middle schools, and provide additional school nurses.
4. *Out-of-school-time activities:* Nineteen percent of the Levy was used to expand school-aged child care programs and a network of multi-cultural, community-based programs for teens to prevent involvement in gangs, drugs, and crime; fund school-based after-school activities for middle school students; and fund a youth involvement program to engage teens in community service and leadership opportunities.

In 1997, Seattle voters renewed their commitment to strengthening schools, families, and communities by overwhelmingly approving a second seven-year \$69 million Families and Education Levy. The Levy's mission continues to be that of keeping children and youth safe and healthy so they are truly ready to learn. The new Levy has expanded upon the successes of the first but provides an even stronger focus on meeting the social and developmental needs of young adolescents.



Approximately 60% of Levy funds currently support programs in Seattle Public Schools. The remainder helps support community-based programs and services in over 150 community agencies. All Levy-funded programs focus on meeting five outcomes:

*1. Ensure that children and youth are ready to learn and do well at school:*

The Levy pays for child care subsidies that help makes quality programs more accessible to low-income families and supports staff training that has raised the quality of care in over 150 child care centers and homes.

*2. Empower middle and high school students to be healthy and make healthy choices:*

The Levy provides a broad-based health care curriculum for elementary and middle school youth, integrating teacher training, health education classes for students, and workshops for parents, and provides students access to comprehensive health services in teen health centers at 10 comprehensive high schools and wellness centers at five middle schools.

*3. Engage children and youth in safe and constructive out of school activities:*

The Levy funds after-school sports, arts, community service, leadership, tutoring, and other activities that contribute to learning and achievement in nearly 20 regular middle, alternative, and/or K-8 schools; provides low-income students with day camp scholarships at Seattle community centers; and provides extensive case management for teens who are at risk of gang and criminal involvement.

*4. Enable families to nurture, support, and guide their children and help them succeed in school:*

The Levy provides family support workers who provide outreach, education and advocacy to children and families in nearly

60 elementary schools; provides special support to immigrant and refugee families struggling to adjust to the cultural differences and value conflicts they encounter on the road to acculturation; and supports family centers that offer support, education, skill building, and recreational activities to fami-

lies, with emphasis on learning readiness and family self-sufficiency, in eight neighborhoods.

*5. Help schools provide a caring, encouraging environment for students and families:*

Levy programs are helping to build authentic school and family partnerships by providing training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities in 22 schools; provide an array of programs that support the social and developmental needs of middle school students; involve students in

community service and life and social skills training; involve parents in schools; train staff on adolescent development; and provide anti-harrassment training and counseling.

In an effort to ensure that all Levy-funded programs are successfully meeting the needs of the students, families, schools and communities they serve, all programs will be thoroughly evaluated. An important component of each evaluation is the feedback received from the students, teachers, families and community members whose lives have been touched by the Families and Education Levy.

For more information on the Families and Education Levy, call Rebecca Salinas, Office For Education, at (206) 233-5107 or send e-mail to [rebecca.salinas@seattle.gov](mailto:rebecca.salinas@seattle.gov) ❀



## FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS HELP PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILDREN TO LEARN

*By Rebecca Salinas, Office for Education/Department of Neighborhoods*

Researchers and practitioners have long acknowledged a strong link between parent involvement and children's success in school. Studies show that schools with strong family involvement programs — those in which families and schools are true partners — enjoy improved student performance, attendance, and positive attitudes toward high education. Especially in schools where large numbers of students are from low-income families, research finds that well-conceived, well-executed parent involvement programs have positively influenced families' attitudes toward their schools.

### FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY HAVE AS THREE PRIMARY GOALS:

- Provide all families opportunities to be engaged in and support the learning process at home and school.
- Strengthen relationships among families, schools, and community resources.
- Provide training, technical assistance, and support that will assist school staff in integrating and institutionalizing a family partnership program that is based on the latest research and nationally-recognized best practices.

Many experts agree that the best way to predict a student's achievement is not income or social status but how well the family creates a home environment that encourages learning, communicates high but reasonable expectations, and becomes involved in their child's education. Since the Seattle Public Schools are committed to achievement for every child in every school, it is critical that schools create equal and active partnerships with families. The Family Partnerships Program is key to creating these partnerships.

For more information, call Rebecca Salinas, Office for Education, at (206) 233-5107 or send e-mail to [rebecca.salinas@seattle.gov](mailto:rebecca.salinas@seattle.gov) ☛

# Community Learning Centers

## CONNECTING NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE

*By Jerry DeGriek, Office for Education/Department of Neighborhoods*

Where do children go after school? This past year, 2,800 children and youth bounded into a Community Learning Center in their public school. There, they participated in a variety of high-quality activities: arts, martial arts, music, athletics, chess, environmental education, and tutoring. They discovered their passions and pursued their dreams while getting support for academic success.

Community Learning Centers are not for children alone — they are hubs for lifelong learning. Last year 6,550 parents and community members joined in center classes, activities, and community events. The centers bring together school staff, community-based organizations, and neighbors to help children and to involve and serve the broader community.

The 11 Community Learning Centers in Seattle are at seven elementary, one K-8, and three middle schools. A grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the YMCA will support four more middle school centers starting this fall.

Community Learning Centers are a key priority of Project Lift-Off, an initiative creating a network of high-quality, affordable early education, and after-school programs to help children succeed. Through Lift-Off, the City works with Seattle Public Schools, School's Out Washington, and many others to establish centers at school sites where children need them most.

The community connection is critical, noted Irene Stewart, director of the Office for Education, part of the Department of Neighborhoods: "We know children are more likely to



do well academically when their parents and community members are more involved in their education and with their schools.”

One parent tells the story well. Her seven-year-old son attends Van Asselt Elementary and participates in their Community Learning Center, operated by Tiny Tots. Now he asks her in the mornings if he'll be late for school. Attending the Community Learning Center changed his attitude. “He really wants to come to school now,” his mom says.

Evaluation results show that students participating in Community Learning Centers have better school attendance, higher homework completion rates, and a more positive approach to school.

Community organizations operate the Community Learning Centers. The centers (and operators) are: Brighton (Boys and Girls Clubs), Concord (YMCA), Cooper (YMCA), Gatzert (YMCA), Van Asselt (Tiny Tots), Whitworth (Powerful Schools), and Wing Luke (Tiny Tots) elementary schools; the K-8 African American Academy (Emerald City Outreach Ministries); and Aki Kurose (YMCA), Denny (Seattle Parks and Recreation), and Meany (YMCA) middle schools. New centers open this fall at Hamilton (YMCA), McClure (Seattle Parks and Recreation), Mercer (Seattle Parks and Recreation), and Washington (YMCA) middle schools.

The City of Seattle funds five Community Learning Centers, with an equal match from Seattle Public Schools. A combination of federal and private foundation grants support other centers. The Families and Education Levy's After School Activities Program (ASAP) is helping the middle school centers reach more students and offer a greater variety of activities.

Each center has a community advisory committee of school staff, parents, and community members. To find out more about Community Learning Centers or to get involved, call Sara Tenney-Espinosa, Office of Community Learning, Seattle Public Schools, at (206) 252-0990, or Jerry DeGriek, Office for Education, Department of Neighborhoods, at (206) 615-1600 or at [jerry.degriek@seattle.gov](mailto:jerry.degriek@seattle.gov) by e-mail. ☼

## PROJECT LIFT-OFF: PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE FUTURE

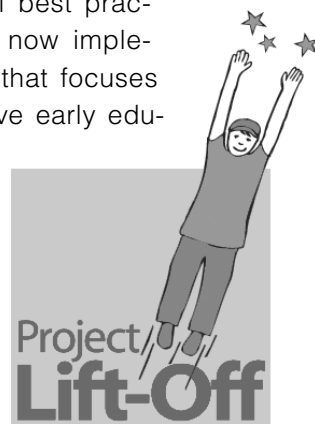
By Jerry DeGriek, Office for Education/Department of Neighborhoods

Project Lift-Off is a community-based initiative that aims to help all children succeed in school and in life. Project Lift-Off is building a network of high-quality, affordable early learning and care and after-school and youth engagement programs to improve the way our community prepares children for the future. The City of Seattle started Project Lift-Off but has worked to make it a community partnership that unites people and programs across roles and agencies. Lift-Off partners include business and community leaders, grant makers, nonprofit organizations, governments, parents, and faith-based groups.



Project Lift-Off engaged 3,000 people in Seattle during its 1999 community assessment. Based on that assessment and a review of best practices, Lift-Off developed and is now implementing a *Blueprint for Change* that focuses our community's efforts to improve early education for young children and after-school and summer activities for school-age children and youth.

Why is this work important? Research on early brain development tells us that a child's experiences and development from birth to age six create the foundation for how well the child will learn and grow. Other researchers have found that children in high-quality after-school programs get better grades, have better conflict resolution skills, are more self-confident, and are less likely to engage in risky and anti-social behaviors than children not in these programs. Working parents have told us they want and need affordable quality care options. The City of Seattle knows that quality child care and after-school programs are key to our city's livability and eco-



(Project Liftoff, continued on next page..)

(Project Lift-off, continued from previous page.)

conomic viability — to attract employers and workers, and to prepare a highly skilled and well educated workforce. Lift-Off is working to turn all this knowledge into actions that benefit children and families.

### IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS, PROJECT LIFT-OFF'S WORK INCLUDES:

- The **Getting School Ready Initiative**, which has brought parents, early education and elementary teachers together to agree on ways we can support children to be ready for school and help schools be ready to meet the needs of their students.
- The **Northwest Finance Circle**, which is working to improve the financing system for early education and after-school programs that suffer from insufficient funding yet often cost more than working families can afford. We are developing and piloting ways to increase quality while making programs more affordable.
- The **Project Lift-Off Opportunity Fund**, a collaboration of more than 20 private grantmakers

and foundations, the City of Seattle, and King County, which is working to make increased and strategic investments in early education and after-school programs. Through this fund, more than \$1 million dollars of private grants made in 2001 were for the benefit of Seattle residents.

- **Employer Champions for Children**, a project spearheaded by The Boeing Company and the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce that is working with seven child care centers, all of which serve a high number of low-income children, to improve quality care for more than 350 children in Seattle.

For more information, call Bea Kelleigh, Project Lift-Off's Lead Executive, at (206) 223-7660 or Jerry DeGriek, the City's Project Lift-Off Coordinator, at (206) 615-1600. Jerry can also be reached at [jerry.degriek@seattle.gov](mailto:jerry.degriek@seattle.gov) by e-mail. ☼

## New City E-mail Addresses

You will soon notice a slight change in electronic mail (e-mail) addresses for City of Seattle employees. City government has obtained a new e-mail address and a new web site address: SEATTLE.GOV. Historically, the e-mail address for City employees has been FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@CI.SEATTLE.WA.US. The new format will be FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@SEATTLE.GOV.

City documents and business cards will begin reflecting the change gradually over the coming year. But the older style addresses will still be valid for the

**Firstname.Lastname@Seattle.gov**

foreseeable future (perhaps perpetually). So mail sent to FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@SEATTLE.GOV will arrive at the same mailbox as mail sent to FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@CI.SEATTLE.WA.US. ☼

## 2002 Matching Fund Deadlines

### PROJECT APPLICATION DATES

Small & Simple & Large Projects  
Final Application ..... Sept. 16

Small & Simple Projects ..... November 18

The Large Projects Fund is for projects that request over \$10,000 and that can be completed in one year. Every City dollar must be matched with a neighborhood contribution of volunteer labor, donated professional services or materials, or cash.

The Small and Simple Projects Fund is for projects under \$10,000 and can be completed in six months.

Up-front money is available for project awards under \$10,000. ☼

# Mayor Out and About in Seattle Neighborhoods

The Department of Neighborhoods helps facilitate walking tours each month for Mayor Greg Nickels in Seattle neighborhoods. Here's where he's headed next. Schedule is subject to change.

DATE	NEIGHBORHOODS	DISTRICT & SECTOR	STEWARD
Friday, Sept. 13	Ballard	Ballard, NW	Rob Mattson
Tuesday, Oct. 1	Central Area	Central, E	Ted Divina
Wednesday, Oct. 30 <i>Tentative</i>	North Seattle (North of 85th)	Northwest, NW	Beth Pflug
Friday, Nov. 22 <i>Tentative</i>	West Seattle	Southwest, SW	Stan Lock
Monday, Dec. 16 <i>Tentative</i>	Downtown	Downtown, W	Gary Johnson



*Mayor Nickels Touring Chinatown/  
International District*

# Research and Prevention in Neighborhoods

By Natasha Jones, Department of Neighborhoods

For many people, the search for a community to call home includes lots of questions: are there good schools nearby? Are there any major public safety issues? Sometimes, even longtime residents face questions and difficulties in their neighborhood. Like how to deal with nuisance issues or who to turn to for help making community improvements. To help provide answers to some of these questions, this year the Department of Neighborhoods absorbed two existing City programs under its new Research and Prevention line of business.

We can do research and compare data from a variety of sources, like police reports, demographic surveys, environmental studies, and school information.

COMPASS (Community, Mapping, Planning and Analysis for Safety Strategies Program) uses data, advanced technology, and structured problem solving to more effectively attack public safety problems. It is a data-driven approach to enhancing community safety, says COMPASS program director Sid Sidorowicz.

“We can do research and compare data from a variety of sources, like police reports, demographic surveys, environmental studies, and school information,” Sidorowicz said. “Then by strategically analyzing the data, we can identify and target public safety problems and work with residents, other city agencies, and even businesses to guide the development of interventions. It’s a great tool for the City.”

Sidorowicz also supervises the NATS program (Neighborhood Action Team Seattle). The programs represent a two-pronged approach to dealing with public safety issues. While COMPASS is the data side, NATS coordinates city agency activities aimed at reducing chronic public safety problems and nuisances that affect neighborhoods.

“There are a lot of existing resources in the city for dealing with public safety issues, so we try to find ways to share those resources, instead of reinventing the wheel,” says NATS program manager Jordan Royer. “For instance, often, multiple departments and jurisdictions are working on the same case and

may be unaware that there is information out there that can be useful to them. Neighborhood Action Team tries to bring everyone together around the table and formulate a strategic response that maximizes resources and minimizes duplication.”

An example of the kind of coordination that the program supports is the Special Emphasis Housing Group. Royer convened this group to create a coordinated response to the issue of hoarder houses: homes where residents collect excessive amounts of trash and material, often causing both rodent infestations and fire hazards. The accumulation of filth and debris poses a serious public health and safety threat to neighborhoods and to the people who live in the structures. The homes also generate complaints to departments Citywide.



The Special Emphasis Group works through 15 to 20 cases at a time citywide. The Group is made up of DCLU, SPD Crisis Intervention Team and Community Service Officers, Public Health, Department of Neighborhoods, the Mayor’s Office, the Mayor’s Office for Senior Citizens, Adult Protective Services, Evergreen Treatment Services, and other mental health professionals. The group’s purpose is to resolve these issues through coordinated enforcement and treatment for the underlying mental health conditions that create these situations.

“Public safety is not just about street crime,” says Sidorowicz. “The bottom line for all of our work in public safety is to make Seattle a better place to live and raise a family.”

For more information about the COMPASS program, call Sid Sidorowicz at (206) 615-0463 (e-mail [sid.sidorowicz@seattle.gov](mailto:sid.sidorowicz@seattle.gov)). For information on the NATS program, call Jordan Royer at (206) 233-0069 (e-mail [jordan.royer@seattle.gov](mailto:jordan.royer@seattle.gov)). ☼

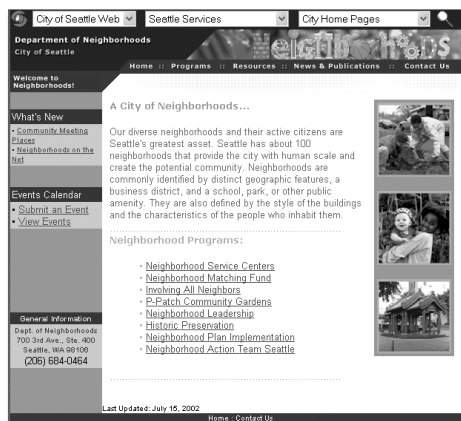
# New Look, New Address For Neighborhoods Web site

The Department of Neighborhoods web site on the Internet is sporting a new address and new look. This summer, the department's information technology staff set out to update the web site, make it more interactive, and provide easier access to the wealth of information available from the knowledgeable Neighborhoods staff. The result can be seen online at

[www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods](http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods), which

has a better web

page layout, easier web site navigation, and the most requested Neighborhoods information just a few mouse clicks away.



[www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods](http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods)

Neighborhoods staff also added some great new features, including a new interactive map to find public meeting places in your area. A Community Meeting Places booklet with the same information is also available now in every Neighborhood Service Center, community center, and library in the city.

The new web site also has links to downloadable versions of applications for many of our programs, plus e-mail addresses and phone numbers to reach staff members for each program.

So head to our new web site address at [www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods](http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods) and tell us what you think. We would love to hear your feedback. ☼

## Passport Fees Increase

If you have international travel plans and need to stop at one of the Department of Neighborhoods' Seven Neighborhood Service Centers that accept U.S. passport applications, better take along some extra cash. Last month, the U.S. Department of State raised passport fees. Adult passports went from \$60 to \$85, and minors under age 16 will now have to pay \$70, up from \$40.

Why the big jump? According to the National Passport Information Center, passport fees must cover the costs of a host of services provided by the United States Department of State. Among them, the costs of all emergency citizen services performed abroad, and assistance to U.S. citizens in cases of arrest, detention, death, serious illness or accident in other countries.

The last time consular fees went up was in February 1998. After an independent review last fall, the State Department made the decision to

raise fees to bring them more in line with the increasing cost of providing necessary services.

Seven Neighborhood Service Centers accept U.S. passport applications during set hours on specific days. They will be collecting the new passport fees listed below:



For more information, call the City of Seattle Passport information line at (206) 615-0725 or the Seattle Passport Agency at (206) 808-5700. ☼

Passport Options	Old Fee	New Fee
Adults (age 16+)	\$45 + \$30 execution fee	\$55 + \$30 execution fee
Minors (under age 16)	\$25 + \$30 execution fee	\$40 + \$30 execution fee
Renewal By Mail	\$40	\$55
Expedite	Passport fees + \$35	Passport fees + \$60
<i>(Expedite is 14-day processing) Note: Expedite fee does not include overnight delivery.</i>		

# New To Neighborhoods: Hazel Bhang, Customer Service and Internal Operations Director

The average person might have to think twice about being offered a job chock full of change: guiding complex finances in a busy department with a new director, in a City government facing steep budget cuts, all during a down economy. Neighborhoods' new Customer Service and Operations Director Hazel Bhang (pronounced like bong) said, "I jumped at the chance! I have always wanted to work for the Department of Neighborhoods. The department's inclusiveness and mission are very near and dear to my heart."



But it would take a short stint in the high-tech field before her passion for public service would lead her to a career that has spanned 13 years in City government.

Bhang's journey to the Department of Neighborhoods began with a move from Korea to the U.S. as a 12 year-old when her parents emigrated. Early on, Bhang says she felt called to public service and public policy-making. Family role models encouraged her interest.

"My mom worked for the state department in foreign service and my grandfather in Korea was very active in politics, so I sort of grew up with that," Bhang said. "And being an immigrant, there's something about the way we're set up here and the way we can get engaged in the political system that gives me goose bumps. I always wanted to be part of that."

Goose bumps or not, the excitement of the high tech field called first. Bhang worked for computer software maker Aldus in the mid-1980's,

just as technology companies started their meteoric rise. But as the company grew from a handful of employees to hundreds, Bhang realized her heart wasn't in it.

So she followed her heart to the Seattle City Council and got her first taste of political life as an intern for Councilmember Dolores Sibonga. From there, it was over to the Office for Intergovernmental Relations, then the Office of Management and Budget, which handled the mayor's budget under the Charles Royer and Norm Rice administrations.

"I worked with the legislature and later dealt with the initial setup of the Family and Education Levy, because that was one of the key accomplishments of Norm Rice when he first came into office," Bhang says.

She will be drawing on that experience in the Department of Neighborhoods, which became the new home of the City's Office for Education (OFE) this year. A major item on the OFE

agenda is administration of the 1997 version of the levy, and shepherding the levy campaign through to the election in 2004.

"I really believe in budgeting as more of a strategic planning exercise, rather than an accounting exercise."

"Her experience with the levy in the past was one of the many qualities that made Hazel a

strong candidate for this position," said Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez. "She brings a wealth of budgeting, finance, and community

development experience to the department that will be an incredible asset as we continue to align our work with the Mayor's priorities for the City."

Bhang continued to build her budgeting and management experience after moving to the City's Department of Housing and Human Services, the precursor to today's Human Services Department. Working as a program manager, Bhang helped private and non-profit organizations acquire, rehabilitate, and build community facilities. She later oversaw the department's \$84 million dollar annual budget.

Bhang says all of her positions with the City have given her an intensive education in policy management and budgeting, and the close link between the two. She sees budgeting as a key way to align priorities with resources to accomplish things.

"I really believe in budgeting as more of a strategic planning exercise, rather than an accounting exercise," Bhang says. "In the public sector, it's really about the scarcity of resources, competing demands and priorities, and matching your priorities with your resources so you can accomplish them."

She sees her key priorities in the Department of Neighborhoods as managing the department's financial resources, supporting her managers and leads so that they can support their front line people, and getting people engaged in the problem identification and solution process.

"Life is all about change, but it has a bad rap because people often feel change is done to people," Bhang said. "We have to be engaged in the process so we can define it and be part of the change process as we evolve as a city." ❀

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Mayor: Gregory J. Nickels

Director: Yvonne Sanchez

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# Neighborhood Park Projects Approved

THROUGH THE PRO PARKS LEVY OPPORTUNITY FUND



New parks with panoramic views in Fremont and Mount Baker, improvements to Flo Ware Park in the Central District, and an improved Mapes Creek walkway in Rainier Beach are among 19 projects that will receive funding through the \$6 million first cycle of the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund.

Community groups and individuals nominated park acquisition and improvement projects in December 2001. The citizens' Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee then reviewed and toured the nominated projects, and in May unanimously recommended 12 acquisition projects and 7 improvement projects for funding. The Committee's recommendations were forwarded by the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to Mayor Greg

Nickels, and unanimously approved by City Council in July.

The Opportunity Fund provides only a portion of the funding for most projects. To fill funding gaps, citizens have also raised private donations, corporate and foundation grants, Neighborhood Matching Fund grants, and County matching grants.

The \$4 million second round of the Levy's \$10 million Opportunity Fund is anticipated in 2004 or 2005. For more information about the Opportunity Fund, contact Catherine Anstett, Seattle Parks and Recreation, 615-0386, or see [www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/opportunityfund.htm](http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/opportunityfund.htm) ☼

This September, we honor the memory of those lost in the World Trade Center attacks of 2001.  
Our hearts and thoughts go out to your families, friends, and the communities you touched.



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